Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

causing a first device to establish a connection with a second device, enabling data transactions between the first device and the second device;

determining, after completion of each of one or more data transactions between the first device and the second device, and before any data transactions other than the completed data transactions have begun between the first and second devices, ~~determining~~ if a time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device;

based on the occurrence of the time-related event, terminating the connection between the first device and the second device at a time after at least one of said one or more data transactions; and

reestablishing a connection between the first device and the second device, enabling another data transaction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the time-related event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising setting a timer when the connection is established between the first device and the second device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 in which determining if the time-related event has occurred includes determining if

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the timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the connection was established between the first device and the second device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which said data transactions include determining if the second device has data available for transmission across a network to the first device and if data is available, transmitting the data to the first device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising, if data is not available, terminating the connection between the first device and the second device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting that the second device complete said one or more data transactions before determining if the time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 in which requesting that the second device complete said one or more data transactions includes requesting that the second device delete data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the time-related event has not occurred, determining if the second device has data available for transmission to the first device.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a connection across a network between the first device and the second device.

11.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

cause a first device to establish a connection with a second device, enabling data transactions with the second device;

determine, after completion of each of one or more data transactions between the first device and the second device, and before any data transactions other than the completed data transactions have begun between the first and second devices, ~~determine~~ if a time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device;

based on the occurrence of the time-related event, terminate the connection between the first device and the second device at a time after at least one of said one or more data transactions; and

reestablish a connection between the first device and the second device, enabling another data transaction.

12.   (Original) The article of claim 11 in which the time-related event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

13.   (Original) The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to set a timer when the connection is established between the first device and the second device.

14.   (Original) The article of claim 13 in which determining if the time-related event has occurred includes determining if the timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the connection was established between the first device and the second device.

15.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 11 in which said data transactions include determining if the second device has data available for transmission across a network to the first device and if data is available, transmitting the data to the first device.

16.   (Original) The article of claim 15 further causing a machine to, if data is not available, terminate the connection between the first device and the second device.

17.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to request that the second device complete said one or more data transactions before determining if the time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device.

18.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 11 in which requesting that the second device complete said one or more data transactions includes requesting that the second device delete data.

19.   (Original) The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to, if the time-related event has not occurred, determine if the second device has data available for transmission to the first device.

20. (Original) The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to establish a connection across a network between the first device and the second device.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus8 comprising:

a first device configured to connect to a network;

an application accessible by the first device and configured to communicate with a second device configured to connect to the network; and

a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured to determine, after the first device completes each of one or more data-related transactions with the second device across the network, and before any data-related transactions other than the completed data-related transactions have begun between the first and second devices, determine if a time-related event has occurred since the first device established a connection with the second device and if so, trigger [[the]] termination of the connection.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 in which the time-related event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is also configured to start a timer when the first device establishes a connection with the second device and to check the timer to determine if the time-related event has occurred since the first device established the connection with the second device.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is also configured to trigger establishment of a new connection between the first device and the second device after the connection is terminated.

25. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a server device configured to connect to a network and to store data;

a client device configured to connect to the network and to retrieve data stored at the server device; and

a mechanism accessible by the client device and configured to determine, after the client device has retrieved data stored at the server device, and before the client device has begun retrieving data stored at the server device other than the retrieved data, determine if a time-related event has occurred since the client device established a connection with the server device and if so, trigger [[the]] termination of the connection.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 in which the data includes an electronic mail message.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25 in which the network includes the Internet.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25 further comprising a mechanism accessible by the server device and configured to, after the connection is terminated, delete the data retrieved by the client device.

29.   (Original) The system of claim 25 in which the mechanism accessible by the client device is also configured to trigger establishment of a new connection between the client device and the server device after the connection is terminated.

30.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

    causing a first device to establish a connection with a second device, enabling a transmission of an electronic mail message between the first device and the second device;

    determining, after the first device completes transmission of each of one or more electronic mail messages, and before transmissions of any electronic mail messages other than the electronic mail messages that have been transmitted between the first and second devices, if a time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device;

    terminating the connection between the first device and the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the time-related event; and

    reestablishing a connection between the first device and the second device, enabling another transmission of an electronic mail message.

31.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

    a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

    cause a first device to establish a connection with a second device, enabling transmission of an electronic mail message from the second device;

    determine, after the first device completes transmission of each of one or more electronic mail messages,

and before transmissions of any electronic mail messages other than the electronic mail messages that have been transmitted between the first and second devices, if a time-related event has occurred since establishing the connection between the first device and the second device;

terminate the connection between the first device and the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the time-related event; and

reestablish a connection between the first device and the second device, enabling another transmission of an electronic mail message.

32.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first device configured to connect to a network;

an application accessible by the first device and configured to communicate with a second device configured to connect to the network; and

a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured to determine, after the first device completes a transmission of an electronic mail message from the second device across the network, and before the first device begins transmission of an electronic mail message other than the transmitted electronic mail message from the second device across the network, determine if a time-related event has occurred since the first device established a connection with the second device and if so, trigger [[the]] termination of the connection.

33.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a server device configured to connect to a network and to store an electronic mail message;

a client device configured to connect to the network and to retrieve the electronic mail message stored at the server device; and

a mechanism accessible by the client device and configured to determine, after the client device has retrieved the electronic mail message stored at the server device, and before the client device begins transmission of an electronic mail message other than the electronic mail message that has been retrieved from the server device across the network, determine if a time-related event has occurred since the client device established a connection with the server device and if so, trigger [[the]] termination of the connection.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein:

the mechanism determines if the time-related event has occurred in response to the client device having retrieved the electronic mail message; and

the client device is further configured to:

if the mechanism determines the time-related event has not occurred, determine if another electronic mail message is available for retrieval; and

if another electronic mail message is not available for retrieval, properly terminate the connection;

otherwise, retrieve the electronic mail message.